

Socioeconomic Study of Reefs in Southeast Florida - Palm Beach County

BY HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C. IN ASSOCIATION WITH FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

This study used extensive survey research over the twelve-month period from June 2000 to May 2001 to measure the economic contribution and the use values of artificial and natural reefs to the economies and the reef users of southeast Florida.

This study was co-funded by the four southeast Florida counties (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and



Monroe), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In all of southeast Florida, residents and visitors spent 28 million

person-days using artificial and natural reefs during the 12-month period. Of this amount, residents and visitors spent about 4.2 million person-days using the reefs in Palm Beach County, or about 15 percent of the regional total. A person-day is one person participating in an activity for a portion or all of a day.

Artificial and Natural Reef Use in Millions of Person-Days Palm Beach County, Florida - June 2000 to May 2001			
Reef Use by Reef Type	Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
	1.41	2.83	4.24
Reef Use by User Type	Residents	Visitors	All Users
	2.98	1.26	4.24
Reef Use by Recreation Type	Snorkeling	SCUBA Diving	Fishing
	0.74	1.73	1.76

person-days using artificial and natural reefs during the 12-month period. Of this amount, residents and visitors spent about 4.2 million person-days using the reefs in Palm Beach County, or about 15 percent of the regional total. A person-day is one person participating in an activity for a portion or all of a day.

Reef-related expenditures generated \$194 million in income to Palm Beach County over the 12-month period and created 6,300 jobs.

For more information contact:

Julie Bishop
Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental Resources Management
3323 Bevedere Road, Building 502
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
(561) 233-2446, phone
jbishop@co.palm-beach.fl.us

Economic Contribution of Reefs to Palm Beach County, Florida June 2000 to May 2001 (Generated from Reef-Related Expenditures)		
Sales (\$ million)	Income (\$ million)	Employment (FT and PT Jobs)
\$505	\$194	6,300

Recreational fishers, divers and snorkelers who use Palm Beach County's reefs are willing to pay \$31 million per year to maintain these reefs in their existing condition.

Natural reef users are willing to pay \$42 million per year to maintain the natural reefs in Palm Beach County. Artificial reef users are willing to pay \$9 million per year to maintain the existing artificial reefs and \$4.8 million per year to add new artificial reefs to the Palm Beach County system.

Annual User Value to Maintain Reefs in Their Existing Condition - Palm Beach County (million dollars)		
Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
\$9	\$42	\$31

A majority of Palm Beach County resident reef users would support "no take" zones on 20 percent of the natural reef system.



Grace M. Johns, Ph.D.
Hazen and Sawyer, P.C.
4000 Hollywood Boulevard,
Seventh Floor, North Tower
Hollywood, Florida 33021
(954) 987-0066, phone
gjohns@hazenandsawyer.com